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Fifty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 3 October 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In view of the grave humanitarian and political situation affecting Afghanistan and the surrounding region, it is my intention to reappoint Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi as my Special Representative for Afghanistan. It may be recalled that in 1999 I indicated that Mr. Brahimi's activities would be "frozen" until such time as circumstances changed to justify his renewed intervention (see A/54/536-S/1999/1145). I believe strongly that the time has come for him to resume his role.

I would want to entrust my Special Representative with overall authority for the humanitarian and political endeavours of the United Nations in Afghanistan. He will also initiate preparations for the development of plans for the rehabilitation of that shattered country. Mr. Brahimi will oversee the activities of, and will be supported by, the two existing pillars of the United Nations system specifically responsible for activities in Afghanistan: the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations Secretariat.

My Special Representative will keep the members of the General Assembly and of the Security Council regularly informed of his ongoing activities.

Attached is a copy of Mr. Brahimi's terms of reference (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Special Representative for Afghanistan

Terms of reference

The mandate of the Special Representative encompasses political and humanitarian aspects. In this connection, he will have overarching authority over United Nations activities in Afghanistan and the region. While focusing initially on peacemaking efforts and humanitarian needs, he will also initiate preparations for the transition to the rehabilitation phase. He will oversee and provide guidance and direction to relevant United Nations programmes and offices in order to ensure overall coordination and coherence of action.

With regard to political activities, the Special Representative will work closely with the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and with the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, which was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/208. He will manage peacemaking activities involving the warring parties and others concerned, with a view to facilitating the establishment of a fully representative multi-ethnic and broad-based government.

The humanitarian dimensions of the mandate of the Special Representative will be carried out in close consultation with the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Afghan Crisis. He will oversee negotiations with all concerned parties for safe and unhindered humanitarian access to all populations in need, and will advocate for humanitarian space and the rights and protection of affected populations. The Special Representative will ensure that the humanitarian and human rights dimensions of the evolving situation are central to political and security discussions.